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Date: 1/18/02 12:19pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement. (A Cry of the defeated)

Is "compete on the merits" a new "phraseology" or word coinage aimed at pacifying the sniffing ant-Microsoft conglomerate of SUN, ORACLE, AOL, IBM and a string of others I don't care to mention?

I have attended Seminars and work-shops at most of these corporations mentioned above. It is sad, at a humorous level, the degree of hypocrisy that prevails within these cultures.

A good portion of every presentation is incomplete without the choicest interspersed infusion of real caustic sarcasm at Microsoft's expense.

In spite of it, those presentations are a near impossibility without a Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel and the like. I say (If you can do better, make yours.)

IBM introduced and marketed it's various platforms. If a crystal ball could tell of declining market shears years later, IBM would have done everything to stay on top of things.

If AOL only new how to eliminate competition in Internet provision, all the free-inets, and MSN included, would be history. Else, why is there so much merging, Partnering and acquiring of any sprouting establishment that has potential in the Communication "promise land"?

ORACLE came up the rungs (rolling and scratching), IBM's DB2 and Microsoft's MS.SQL notwithstanding. ORACLE wouldn't hesitate to tell you it's product is the only answer, anyone with an ear ought to listen to.

Quality of functionality besides, it is perfectly heart worming to Conner at least 60% of the database market. Why not ?

It is a cutthroat competitive atmosphere out there. If winner can take all, why stop at 60%, 65, % or even at 95% market monopoly. Problem is, ORACLE will snatch the opportunity, if only it knew how. And I do not think they have given up that drive or hope.

SUN Micro systems parades a line of it's own platforms, ushering UNIX, or Linux and what ever else it prefers. If SUN, as well as it's back-up cheer leaders and supporters, could only come up with desk-top applications (the parallel of Microsoft Office suit, etc., etc., etc.), to market with its systems, who knows what prayer they might have in that domain?

Netscape Navigator ceded to IE, just as DB2 ultimately Succumbed to Oracle. C/C++ are withering under the steam from SUN's hot coffee. Why is Microsoft so able to survive despite the array of back-stabbers?

It is a human world , and we as humans have a tendency to grudgingly

concede, to something, or a strategy. We chid ourselves for, lacking the foresight, for not perceiving a concept, that was glaringly available, and worst, for letting someone else beat us to it.
Why didn't we think of first ?.

Reminds me so much of little Israel, surrounded by a host nations, that act not much better than they claim they are treated.
This concludes my say about this matter.

Thanks.

Pius (DoD, civil service)